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Bowling Green State University

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Tuesday
December 11, 2007
Volume 102, Issue 75
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CAMPUS

The writing is on the wall

Northern Illinois University is under security alert after police found threats on a bathroom wall | **Page 3**

WORLD

Husband-wife transfer of power

Fernandez was sworn in as Argentina's first elected female president; her husband Kirchner led Argentina out of its 2001-2002 economic meltdown | **Page 7**

FORUM

We're in favor of Weirauch

The BG News explains why we are endorsing Democratic candidate Robin Weirauch for a spot in the House | **Page 4**

Students seek independence

Columnist Conrad P. Pritscher explores why educational freedom is important to personal development | **Page 4**

Cleveland Browns have a chance in the postseason

Although the NFL has put out a release detailing a scenario that would put the Browns in the playoffs, coach Crennel is still focusing on the season | **Page 5**

Michael Vick sentenced to 23 months

The suspended quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons received this jail time for running a "cruel and inhumane" dogfighting ring and lying about it | **Page 5**

SPORTS



PEOPLE ON THE STREET

If you could be in the blotter for anything, what would it be?



ASHLEY CARRIGAN
Freshman, Art

"Cow tipping."
| **Page 4**

WEATHER

TODAY
Rain
High: 37, Low: 30

TOMORROW
A.M. Showers
High: 32, Low: 29



Stories By Ryan Sullivan
Reporter

Dining choices decrease

Students might begin to notice a drop in the selection of food as the finals week begins to wind down.

They're not just imagining things. University Dining Services has to order less food than usual due to the inability to store some food over the break.

The average frozen foods, drinks and items with a long shelf life will probably be unaffected by this. But items such as fresh fruit and vegetables will start to become more scarce as the week progresses.

Daria Blachowski-Dreyer, Dining Services Nutrition Initiatives Manager, said this is because the University orders large quantities of food.

"Yes, variety goes down," Blachowski-Dreyer said. "But to be financially responsible we have to do it."

She said due to the size of the bulk items, it is difficult to order most food. Because the spending habits of students vary year to year as well as semester to semester, it is difficult for the University to place orders and avoid a surplus of spoiled food.

"If [students] have a particular favorite item, I recommend that you pick it up now," Blachowski-Dreyer said.

Freshman David Pfeiffer has been doing exactly that for the past few weeks.

"The last time I went to Chilly's, I bought \$30 to \$40 worth of food because I didn't want to go back," Pfeiffer said.

Students are also advised to purchase their food items now because the store they want to go to might not be open later this week.

See **CHOICES** | Page 2

Meal plans come up short

It is the end of the semester and many students are depending on the generosity of friends because their meal plans have run out.

Students have been trying to budget out their meal plans since the start of the semester and some have been more successful than others.

Daria Blachowski-Dreyer, nutrition initiatives manager for University Dining Services, said as the semester comes to a close, students should start looking at all of their choices to ensure they will still have money left.

"I think [students] need to pay more attention to what's on the line and not the first thing they see," Blachowski-Dreyer said.

She also said students should consider buying things such as apple sauce instead of buying an apple.

It might cost more for the jar but will give them more servings, saving students money, she said.

The University allows students to choose when and how to purchase food and this separates us from other schools, Blachowski-Dreyer said.

She said Bowling Green is not like most universities because we offer a la carte dining while most schools use a swipe program.

In a swipe program, students have a certain number of meal swipes on their card per week and after they are done, students can't use them anymore.

As some students have seen their meal plans dwindle, others are trying to spend what is left before they lose it.

See **PLANS** | Page 2

LSU brings a sense of community

By Nathan Robson
Reporter

For Latino Student Union President Laura Saavedra, the key to a successful college career is finding a sense of family and connection to the University.

Coming into school many Latino students don't feel that connection and are more likely to leave before graduation, she said. LSU, which has been on campus for 35 years, strives to give its members a nurturing environment that can get them involved on campus.

"We provide a sense of family, and that helps them to retain students of color so they finish college," Saavedra said.

Most of the people who stay active in LSU finish college, she said.

Before meetings members greet one another like family members and the meeting ends with social time with music.

"This is the one time a week where we know we will see every one," Saavedra said.

Saavedra, who was raised by her mother in Detroit, said that family has always been important to her. As Saavedra prepared to enter high school, her mother, Laura Ramirez, died of the autoimmune disease Lupus.

"That was something I had to deal with," Saavedra said. "I was blessed to have an aunt who stepped in, and my step dad, he was there too. I love him dearly he means the world to me."

With the issues going on in her family life, Saavedra began to struggle in school. When she joined the Marine ROTC she found something she was passionate about. Participating in the



Laura Saavedra
President of Latino Student Union

See **LSU** | Page 2

Comparing campaigns and candidates

By Tim Sampson
City Editor

Find out where the candidates stand on the issues you care about:



Bob Latta
R - Bowling Green



Robin Weirauch
D - Napoleon

Issues:

Education:

Holds a B.A. from BGSU and a law degree from University of Toledo.

Holds a bachelor's in business administration and a master's in public administration, both from BGSU.

Background:

Currently serving his fourth term in the Ohio House of Representatives from Wood County. Formerly served in the Ohio Senate and as a Wood County Commissioner.

Founded the Henry County Humane Society and spent 10 years as the program coordinator for the Great Lakes Regional Office of the Humane Society. Worked for eight years as the assistant director of the Center for Regional Development at BGSU.

War:

Believes in following the advice of U.S. military commanders who are in Iraq. Thinks it is in America's best interest to keep soldiers in Iraq until the country is a free and democratic state capable of defending itself.

Believes U.S. should begin withdrawing troops from Iraq based on a timetable created by military leaders. Thinks the U.S. should take a tougher stand in getting the Iraqi government to run its own country.

Immigration:

Opposes amnesty for immigrants who have entered the U.S. illegally. Believes illegal immigrants are taking away taxpayer-funded services from those who are here legally.

Opposes amnesty for illegal immigrants. Believes illegal aliens have taken jobs from U.S. workers and are putting a burden on taxpayer U.S. citizens.

Jobs:

Says that overzealous taxation and government regulations hinder the growth of small businesses in Ohio. Latta has made abolishing the Federal Estate Tax a chief priority in his campaign.

Wants to renegotiate "unfair" trade agreements like NAFTA. She believes such agreements have allowed U.S. jobs to move overseas and for illegal immigrants to come to the U.S. and take jobs.

Environment:

Favors the development of renewable energies such as wind and solar power in order to create jobs and decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

Wants to see continued growth of renewable energies to protect the environment, create jobs and reduce U.S. dependency on foreign oil.

Reporter Kristen Voss contributed to this report

Local artists find new venue for creations on Main St.

By Kelly Metz
Reporter

The Arts in Common gallery, located in the Main Street Common Space, is a safe space for local artists and art merchants.

Arts in Common was opened last October in the former South, Main Elementary building with the intention of advocating the arts through the community. The gallery was closed over the summer for renovations. The gallery reopened in August with 20 members who were excited about workshops, classes and

other activities.

Executive Director Susan Woodard discovered the gallery last December and joined with the intention to help develop a place where artists can exhibit work, bounce ideas off each other and have critique sessions.

"Arts in Common is a place where local artists can come show their work, sell their work or just talk with other artists," Woodard said. "If an artist is stuck, we can give them feedback to discuss and give advice. Critiques are so important to grow as an artist."

See **GALLERY** | Page 2



BRIAN BORNHOEFF | THE BG NEWS

PICTURE PERFECT: Work exhibited at the Arts in Common Gallery on Main Street.

BLOTTER

FRIDAY

2:22 A.M.
Mark A. Dulik, 21, of Bowling Green, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and traveling outside marked lanes on Klotz Road.

8:29 A.M.
Ryan L. Edinger, 19, of Findlay, Ohio, was cited for drug abuse and possession of drug paraphernalia after police found a small bag of marijuana and a glass pipe containing marijuana residue in his room in Offenauer West.

SATURDAY

2:58 A.M.

Anton P. Vogel, 18, of Medina, Ohio, and Michael L. Chohaney, 18, of Bowling Green, were cited for disorderly conduct after spray painting anime turtles on doors of the Centrex building and University Hall.

SUNDAY

9:46 A.M.

Unknown person reported to have ripped off the antenna of a car parked on East Merry Avenue.

ONLINE: Read more of the blotter online at bgnews.com

CORRECTION POLICY

We want to correct all factual errors. If you think an error has been made, call The BG News at 419-372-6966.

A Forum column by Cassie Siler in Monday's issue should have mentioned that Siler is a volunteer for Student Money Management Services and an intern with the "Are You Credit Wise?" program. Her name was also misspelled in the jump line of her column.

GALLERY

From Page 1

The gallery recently held classes taught by members for children to make paper hats, collages and other pieces of art featured in the gallery; the children liked this because the University Art Department does not offer classes like this for them, Woodard said.

Keeping the gallery involved with the community is important because a lot of townspeople do

CHOICES

From Page 1

Blachowski-Dreyer said some dining halls will be closing for the break as early as tomorrow. Some of the convenience store hours will also be shortened.

Sophomore Michael Turner said he has already started to stock up for the rest of the week.

"I really try to stock up on drinks," Turner said. "You have to make sure you have some [for the end of the week]."

Students shouldn't worry too much though. Some dining centers will be extending their hours.

Chily's Convenience Store and Temptations both have extended

hours part of this week for those students who might need a late night pick-me-up.

Blachowski-Dreyer said another problem facing the dining service workers is the increase in bulk orders towards the end of the semester.

She said this is most likely due to increase in awareness at the end of the semester that meal plan money is nonrefundable for people leaving the University.

Another problem faced by the University is the inability to measure the habits of students who shop and eat off campus.

As a result of these two things, it's difficult for the those in the dining services to order food for the last week.

PLANS

From Page 1

Freshman Kevin McGinn feverishly purchased noodles, cheese and other non-perishable items at Chily's Convenience Store yesterday. McGinn won't be returning to the University and wants to make sure he doesn't waste any money.

"I had \$600 left two weeks ago but I have been stocking up," McGinn said. "I still have something like \$180 left. I am going to go and eat and spend the rest before I go."

He has also been spending some of his meal plan to pay for some of his friends who live off campus and one who is out of money.

Sophomore John Travers said he thinks bulk purchases at

Chily's contributed to his lack of meal plan money.

"The University really capitalizes on students with meal plan," Travers said. "I upgraded my meal plan this past semester but I still am running out [of meal plan money]."

He said he feels like he has been living out of a microwave recently as the result of the price of the food.

Blachowski-Dreyer did say it is possible to add money to a student's meal plan mid-way through the semester without putting it onto the BG1 card. All money added this way is included in a student's Flex Funds account. Money is withdrawn from Flex Funds as a student continues to purchase food. Students can also pay for food using cash, credit, BG1 or rollover from previous semesters.

LSU

From Page 1

ROTC program would instill the leadership ability she would need later on in life for LSU, she said.

"ROTC was my passion in high school," Saavedra said. "I was a Lieutenant Colonel by the time I graduated."

With the leadership skills she acquired in high school she felt prepared to be LSU president.

As LSU president, Saavedra has tried to improve her cabinet's leadership skills. LSU Vice President Raquel Santiago said Saavedra sets an example for others through her dedication to the organization.

"She has a drive and strength not all leaders have," said Saavedra's friend, Gary Washington. "I mean this in the sense that leaders develop this over a period of time. In her case, it's been instilled naturally."

Saavedra is quick to point out that what she does for LSU is not just about her.

"I want to make LSU all that it can be and then some," Saavedra said. "I know that sounds corny."

I'm not going to be here forever and I want to give to others, and teach them what I know so they can successfully take over for the LSU or other organizations."

Saavedra said that by having personal meetings with members during lunch or just hanging out that she can instill her knowledge into her members. She also wants to allow members to shadow cabinet members to get a feel for what it's like to be in the cabinet.

Saavedra also said that recruitment and retainment of students are important issues to her.

She also wants to create a youth summit for students of color that would allow students to get acquainted with the University, get LSU connected with the University and help potential students think about which school to attend.

LSU currently makes phone calls to students of color thinking of attending the University. Every semester, the cabinet sends a letter to minority freshmen and invites them to come to LSU meetings, Saavedra said.

LSU meetings are every Tuesday at 9 p.m. in 207 Union.

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Threats on bathroom wall puts university under surveillance

By Alexa Aguilar
Chicago Tribune

"On the one hand, it's something scrawled on a bathroom wall."

Northern Illinois University is under a security alert through the end of the semester after police found threats on a bathroom wall that included a racial slur and references to the Virginia Tech shootings, a university spokeswoman said Sunday.

Campus police are investigating two separate writings found by a student Saturday night on the restroom wall in the Grant Towers D complex that read that "things will change most hastily" in the final days of the semester, said Melanie Magara, a university spokeswoman.

The first set of writings, found in black ink on the wall of a

Melanie Magara | Northern Illinois University Spokeswoman

women's restroom, includes a racial slur and reads "ME / OUT ... Die Sem Burr 10th ... Hmz Sdn Cr" in what officials believe are a reference to December 10 and the Holmes Student Center. Underlined letters also spell out the word "WATCH."

The second entry, which appears to be in different handwriting, reads, "What time? The VA tech shooters messed up w/ having only one shooter ..."

NIU officials increased campus security and notified everyone on campus about the threats by e-mail, voice mail

and fliers, Magara said.

Magara said the final exams scheduled for this week will proceed as usual, though officials are still considering how to handle student absences in light of the threats.

"On the one hand, it's something scrawled on a bathroom wall" and threats aren't uncommon on college campuses during finals week, Magara said.

But in light of recent, high-profile campus shootings, university officials want to err on the side of caution, she said.

ICE STORMS PUMMEL PLANTS ON CAMPUS



ENOCH WU | THE BG NEWS

PER A READER'S REQUEST: "The weight of finals week is too much for even the trees."

LAPD arrests Loyola student after online threat

By Noaki Schwartz
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles police arrested a 21-year-old Loyola Marymount University student in connection with an online threat to shoot people on campus, officials said Saturday. Police arrested Carlos Huerta,

a senior at Loyola, for investigation of making criminal threats. Huerta was taken into custody on Saturday night near his apartment on campus.

Huerta is suspected of posting a message that he would shoot and kill as many people as possible on campus before being killed himself by police, authori-

ties said. The threat appeared on JuicyCampus.com, a chat board that describes itself as having the "simple mission of enabling online anonymous free speech on college campuses."

University officials reported the threat to police around 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, said LAPD spokesman Officer Mike Lopez.

GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu

8 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Edmund Fitzgerald artifact in shipwrecks exhibit
BGSU Firelands Library

8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

BGSU Students Respond to the South Bronx
130/131 Union

8 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Muslim Student Association Prayer Room
204 Olscamp

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

CSC Cookbook Sales
118-1 Union Table Space

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Gourmet Chocolates with Chef Billie Jo
Union

12 - 1 p.m.

Weight Watchers @ Work
314 Union

8 p.m.

Secret of the Star - A Show For Christmas
112 Physical Sciences Lab Bldg.

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U.S. ARMY

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ARMY STRONG.

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

If you could be in the blotter for anything, what would it be?



"Cattle rustling."

MATT JURAK.
Senior, Creative Writing



"Stealing a lawn chair."

KATIE REEDER.
Sophomore, Graphic Design



"Peeing on a cop's car."

ALEX NUNLEY.
Freshman, International Business



"Stealing the answers to my finals."

HANNAH BASTING.
Sophomore, Undecided

VISIT US AT BGNEWS.COM

Have your own take on today's People On The Street? Or a suggestion for a question? Give us your feedback at bgnews.com.

OUR VIEW

We're for Weirauch, but next time, how about a little respect?

Finally. That's what first comes to mind after the three months of ugliness that has passed as a campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Finally, today, it's put to rest. We'll know whether Ohio's 5th district voters want more of the same uncompromising conservatism, in the form of Republican Bob Latta, or the third-time's-a-charm change of pace with Democrat Robin Weirauch.

We would rather see Weirauch win. But more importantly, as college students, we've felt a bit invisible lately.

Neither candidate made even a half-hearted attempt to engage University students during the campaign — at least, not in any form we saw.

We know Weirauch tried to hold an event here last week, which never came to be.

But a press conference last Friday would have been only four days before today's election. What happened to the rest of the month after the primaries, when she could have made a couple of trips?

As for Latta, apart from a brief stop with the College Republicans in September, all we've seen from him are brief press conferences outside Bass Pro Shops and courthouses. We students must be too liberal to even bother — never mind that conservatives do, in fact, exist around campus.

No, instead, all students saw of the two candidates were attack ads, bought by the national Democratic and Republican parties.

Way to talk about the issues, folks. And they wonder why young people get turned off by politics? Nevertheless, it's election day, and ignoring Weirauch and Latta won't do much to help them pay attention to students next time around.

The Bush administration has dug itself into more holes than we'd care to count — in Iraq, on health care, on disaster secretaries like Alberto Gonzales. They haven't been honest, forthcoming or shown the least bit of maturity involved in admitting a mistake.

More recent news such as the national security report on Iran suggest they've even been willing to throw their own supporters in the legislature for a loop.

The last thing we need is to have another member of Congress line up behind this executive circus.

Instead, a rank-and-file member of the Democratic wing is another step toward reversing the horrendous slide of the last six years. We'll see a quicker end to the war and trade deals that are fairer to all sides involved with her support in the House.

So The BG News endorses Democrat Robin Weirauch.

Now, hopefully, they'll care to notice.

Send responses to thenews@bgnews.com.

The freedom students need

CONRAD P. PRITSCHER | GUEST COLUMNIST

Carol Ann Raphael reports: "More than 60 percent of first-year students entering over 230 U.S. institutions of higher learning said they hoped to have an opportunity to develop their personal values, self-understanding, and maturity while at college." Those characteristics may not be learned without trust and freedom.

What if your courses, other than courses training for specific skills, allowed you to decide for yourself how to spend your time? For courses designed to primarily "train," high degrees of student freedom may not work, but for courses which purport to be educational (developing personal values, self-understanding, and maturity) freedom is almost essential. Freedom implies trust. In "free schools" students determine what, when, how and where they do what they do.

Many schools and universities assume students will not learn what they are "supposed to learn" if they are free. Consequently most students are constrained by schools and universities but it is rarely noticed since we give little attention to societal constraints which we often allow.

Student constraints are subtle and have been with us for so many years, yet we don't give them attention. Our earlier schooling has even trained us to want some school constraints (often in the form of "structure" created by others).

Students at free schools like the Sudbury Valley School (K-12 in Massachusetts) are unconstrained. Their mission states:

"The fundamental premises of the school are simple: That all people are curious by nature; that the most efficient, long-lasting, and profound learning takes place when started and pursued by the

learner; that all people are creative if they are allowed to develop their unique talents; ... and that freedom is essential to the development of personal responsibility."

At free schools (and at Caltech) students create their own environments and generate their own activities. Buildings, faculty and the equipment are there for the students to use. Students are independent and are trusted. The students are treated as responsible people in what seems to be a community of participatory democracy. Each person at a free school (students and staff) has the same power with their vote for what happens at the school.

"Education" directly facilitates self-direction. While it is very difficult to be educated without a variety of skills, a student will not be educated (self-directing) if they do not have the general ability (more than a set of clearly defined skills) to decide for themselves. People learn to decide for themselves by deciding for themselves. Deciding for themselves what will secure or endanger their freedom is what Thomas Jefferson said is a major purpose of education. Free schools trust students.

An article by Sakar on Covey's "The Speed of Trust" says:

"Trust is the one thing that affects everything else you're doing. It's a performance multiplier which takes your trajectory upwards, for every activity you engage in, from strategy to execution." Thomas Friedman's "The World Is Flat" shows that high trust organizations outperform low-trust organizations. Trust is often missing in schools and universities.

In high trust organizations, Covey reports: "Information is shared openly. Mistakes are tolerated and encouraged as a way of learning. The culture is innovative and creative. People are loyal to those who are absent. People talk

straight and confront real issues. There is real communication and real collaboration."

Cooperation is more valued than competition when trust is high. In low trust organizations Covey reports a culture where facts are distorted and manipulated and where new ideas are resisted. Most universities and school courses now reflect a low trust culture. Covey believes that where trust is lacking students reciprocate with distrust. "That's how the vicious cycle of mistrust starts and spirals downward.... There is a risk in trusting people, but the greater risk is not trusting people."

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway firm often does business with a handshake and has 192,000 employees with 42 different wholly-owned companies with only seventeen people working at corporate headquarters. "Buffett employs a seamless web of deserved trust," Charlie Munger says: "It's not blind trust, but smart trust." Imagine the student learning if schools and universities used "smart trust."

Courses which primarily train for specific skills often require students to remember much information. Remembering separate pieces of information is the lowest of six cognitive levels yet most teachers and many professors require students to remember many pieces of information.

You have heard: "He who is his own doctor has a fool for a patient." But people like Albert Einstein would probably agree with: He who is his own educator is on the road to wisdom. Your choosing professors who trust more and grant more freedom can help you educate yourself.

Pritscher is a professor emeritus. Send responses to his column to thenews@bgnews.com.

MORE TOYS TO AVOID this HOLIDAY....



NATE BEELER | MCT

Fender benders and forest fires



BRIAN KUTZY
COLUMNIST

"Hypothetically, if we could save the planet, the cost to its human inhabitants would be devastating."

Raise your hand if you've been in a car crash.

OK, I can't see you, and the professor just called on you for a question you obviously weren't listening to, but my point is made. Now, given the miscellaneous hands popping up around campus today, consider this: Would you rather be in a 50 mpg SmartCar, or a gas guzzling behemoth at that fateful moment? When I had my first mishap I was in a boat of a luxury sedan, and registered a 20 mph impact as "mildly unpleasant."

So here's the tradeoff: I am (was, actually — the car's scrap metal by now) killing the planet while I personally walk off without a scratch.

Before I get into the crux of my argument, allow me a disclaimer. I do not argue that global warming is not occurring, that Al Gore is a sycophantic doom-sayer for the U.N. (O.K., maybe), or even that it's "not as bad as it's made out to be."

But I do believe this: I would much rather be safe and comfortable than switch to a smaller car and maybe maintain the planet for the additional percent of a percent of a millisecond.

See, I actually like driving big, powerful sedans. (Granted, I currently drive a minivan, but that's not immediately significant.) The whole "bumper kissing" incident just proved my foresight.

Okay, fine, so there was no foresight involved, I just liked/ inherited the car. Anyway, I was reading The Wall Street Journal the other day and an opinion columnist had a fascinating point to make. Basically, the columnist pointed out that we are paranoid about safety, to the point of demanding our playgrounds be refitted with clean,

nonabrasive rubber instead of mulch and the monkey bars be coated in foam padding — and yet our deer-in-headlights fascination with global warming is so overwhelming that we are willing to buy fuel efficient death-traps.

Then a few days ago I saw an ad for a compact that stressed that it was the only car "in its class" with a five-star safety rating. But really, if that were to be the determining factor in someone's purchase, aren't they going to notice the battle-ready SUV freshly polished on the showroom floor?

The point is not that you should risk your life rather than buy a safe(r) car; just the opposite. My father is a senior civil engineer for American Electric Power, whose "fact of the day" bulletins occasionally refer to power usage and its effect on greenhouse gases. They point out that more than one quarter of smog-causing emissions are produced through cargo ships which haul 90 percent of international trade.

So unless we're willing to turn our backs on the whole international free market concept or enable private fleets to use nuclear-powered tugs, we're in something of a tight spot.

A.E.P. also points out that 18 percent of emissions come from livestock (and I suspect STAND would argue an equal portion comes from cigarette smoke). Keep in mind that 18 percent of all emissions is more than is exuded from every car in the world combined.

So if we want to save the planet we need to give up: safe cars, non-domestic products, all livestock products, and (though I don't have the numbers at hand) most modern farming methods. Hypothetically, if we could save the planet, the cost to its human

inhabitants would be devastating. The massive excess of food that America produces and donates in part to poor countries for relief would be gone, the flow of capital into said countries would almost completely halt, and those of us accustomed to meat and leather attire would be seriously cranky for at least a week.

My point is, we're framing this as a Malthusian rock-and-hard-place scenario — no going forward, no going back.

Time out. Europe depleted its natural resources (forests especially) about 500 years ago, with Europe and Asia quickly following suit. Last I checked there are still a few billion people living in those areas, fully industrialized in some cases.

So maybe we will all be washed out to sea someday, but in the meantime our lives are better, safer and longer in part because of our production and consumption.

So if every single person that reads this article switches to an SUV, two things will happen. First, I will sue for royalties from local gas stations. And second, the world might, just maybe — but probably not — end a microsecond sooner. Personally, I think my future sedan is worth it.

Send responses to Brian's column to thenews@bgnews.com.

TOMORROW IN FORUM

"It's not just noise!" Levi Joseph Wonder, on the uniqueness and complexity of electronic music.

Columns from Sean Martin and Jason Sneed.

Schedule subject to change.

THE BG NEWS

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The BG News Submission Policy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are longer pieces between 400 and 500 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area. The maximum number of submissions for columns is two per month.

POLICIES: Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS as an attachment to thenews@bgnews.com with the subject line marked "Letter to the Editor" or "Guest Column." Only e-mailed letters and columns will be considered for printing. All letters are subject to review for length and clarity before printing.

Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the view of The BG News.

SIDELINES



HOCKEY

Despite weekend losses, Falcons still in polls

After a weekend where they lost two games to No. 3 Michigan, the BG hockey team dropped just one spot to No. 19 in the USCHO/CSTV poll. BG is 8-6 on the season and 5-5 in Central Collegiate Hockey Association play.

ONLINE

Check out The BG News Sports Blog for a Web exclusive

See Reporter Ethan Magoc's interview with BG baseball coach Danny Schmitz and a story about Schmitz's coaching style and his program's values. Get it while you can at:

<http://bgnewssports.blogspot.com>

OUR CALL

Today in Sports History

1985 - NHL Record 62 points tallied as Edmonton (36) beats Chicago (26) 12-9 and ties record of 21 goals.
1966 - Al Nelson sets NFL record returning missed field goal, 100 yards.
1951 - Joe DiMaggio announces his baseball retirement.
1934 - Ford C. Frick becomes president of baseball's National League

The List

After last week's debacle, The BG News gives you the top five worst guarantees in sports history.

1. Anthony Smith:

This backup safety for the Steelers said his team would beat the Patriots. He proceeded to get beat like a drum all game long.

2. Rasheed Wallace:

After the Cavaliers won game three of a playoff series with his Pistons, Wallace guaranteed wins the next two games, and was wrong. The Pistons got out of that series but lost to the Cavs the following season in the Eastern Conference Finals.

3. Jerramy Stevens:

This Seahawks tight end thought Joe Namath had it right and guaranteed a win over the Steelers in Super Bowl XL. Jerome Bettis is from Detroit and the Steelers won easily.

4. Roy Williams:

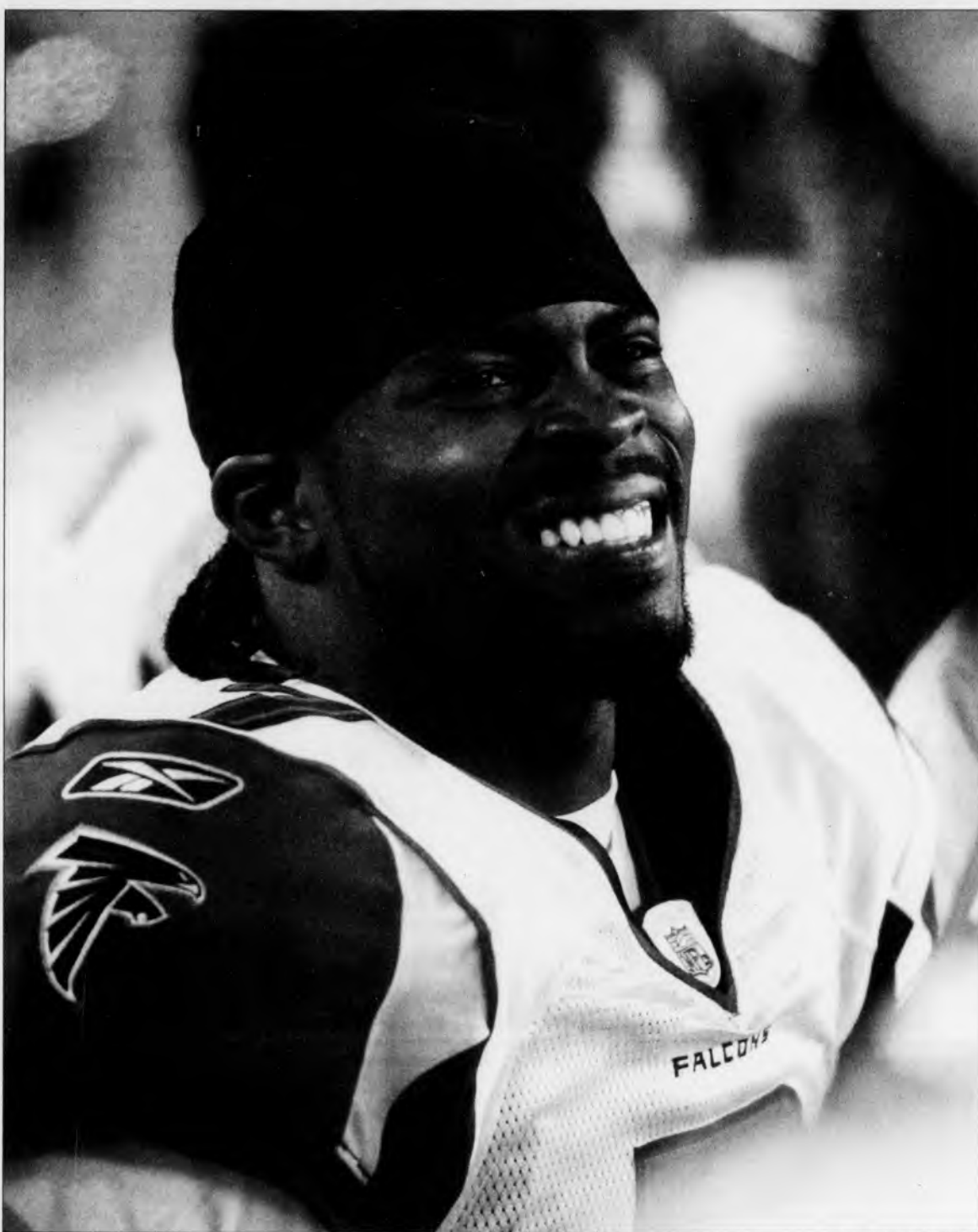
Last season this guy thought his Lions would win against the NFC-leading Bears. Then he realized his QB was Jon Kitna.

5. David Boston

(97)/Terry Glenn(95):

While at OSU, each receiver made a guarantee they'd beat Michigan. Then they met Charles Woodson and Tim Biakabataka respectively.

23 months for Vick



RUSTY KENNEDY / AP PHOTO

TO THE SLAMMER: Michael Vick will spend up to 23 months in prison for charges stemming from the case against him for dogfighting.

Atlanta quarterback receives punishment for dogfighting

By Larry O'Dell
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Michael Vick was sentenced to 23 months in prison yesterday for running a "cruel and inhumane" dogfighting ring and lying about it.

The suspended Atlanta Falcons quarterback could have been sentenced up to five years by U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson. Vick, who turned himself in Nov. 19 in anticipation of his sentence, was wearing a black-and-white striped prison

suit.

After Vick apologized to the court and his family, Hudson told him: "You need to apologize to the millions of young people who looked up to you."

"Yes, sir," Vick answered.

The 27-year-old player acknowledged using "poor judgment" and added, "I'm willing to deal with the consequences and accept responsibility for my actions."

Although there is no parole in the federal system, rules governing time off for good behavior could reduce Vick's prison stay by about

three months, resulting in a summer 2009 release.

"You were instrumental in promoting, funding and facilitating this cruel and inhumane sporting activity," Hudson told Vick.

Before the hearing, Michael Vick's brother, Marcus Vick, sat with his right arm around their mother, comforting her as she buried her head in her hands and wept.

Vick was suspended without pay by the NFL and lost all his lucrative endorsement deals. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell was

asked after yesterday's ruling if Vick should play again.

"That's a determination we'll make later on," he told The Associated Press from a legislative hearing in Austin, Texas. "As I said earlier when we suspended him indefinitely, we would evaluate that when the legal process was closed."

Falcons owner Arthur Blank called the sentencing another step in Vick's "legal journey."

See **VICK** | Page 6

Palmer, Bengals seem average this season

By Joe Kay
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Ten months after Carson Palmer won the Pro Bowl's MVP award, his numbers and his team have become downright average.

Are the Cincinnati Bengals' woes dragging down their franchise quarterback? Or, is there more to it?

The first suggestion fits best.

Palmer had another so-so game Sunday in a 19-10 victory over the St. Louis Rams, leading the Bengals to one touchdown and four field goals. When it was over, he was ranked in the middle of the pack of NFL passers.

"At this position and with where we are as a team, I need to play great every week, and I haven't been great every week," Palmer said. "As far as I'm concerned, I just want to give us a chance to win. Of course, I want to throw a bunch of



AL BEHRMAN / AP PHOTO

IT'S THE BEARD: Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer passes against the St. Louis Rams in the first half Sunday.

touchdown passes and throw the ball all over the field, but at this point in the year with where we're at, we need wins."

At 5-8, the Bengals are out of

See **BENGALS** | Page 6

St. Mary's cracks top 25

By Jim O'Connell
The Associated Press

Gonzaga has company in the Top 25.

After being the West Coast Conference's lone representative in The Associated Press' college basketball poll for the past decade, Gonzaga has another league member in the rankings as Saint Mary's, Calif. moved in at No. 24 yesterday.

The Gaels (7-0) were last in the Top 25 for the final three weeks in the 1988-89 season. With Gonzaga at No. 19, the WCC has two ranked teams for the first time since the beginning of the 1973-74 season.

"That's the last time two of them were ranked? That's unbelievable. That's surprising. That's great for our league," seventh-year Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said yesterday. "It's nice. It's good for our program, good for our league. It's a positive reward for a month in the season. It doesn't matter for the long-term, but at this point

in the season it shows our guys are playing well."

North Carolina was No. 1 as it has been since the preseason poll, and the top six teams held their places from last week. The only newcomer was Saint Mary's, which enters the rankings off a 69-64 victory over San Diego State on Saturday in the Wooden Classic in Anaheim.

The Gaels' big win this season was a 99-87 victory over Oregon on Nov. 20 and they beat Seton Hall 85-70 in a matchup of unbeaten teams on Dec. 1.

"We knew coming into it if we were capable of doing what we're doing, this was just part of the plan and it would take care of itself," guard Todd Golden said. "This is definitely not the ultimate goal but it's nice in the meantime. I thought with as close as we were after the Seton Hall win, if we were able to go down and get that win against San Diego State it would be

See **TOP 25** | Page 6

Browns control destiny

By Tom Withers
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The NFL validated the Cleveland Browns' playoff chances yesterday by sending out a release that spelled out a scenario by which the club can clinch a postseason berth next Sunday.

Apparently, Romeo Crennel hasn't seen the league's official memo.

"Playoffs?" the Browns coach said, playfully mimicking Jim Mora's infamous rant without the high-pitched whine or razor-edged sarcasm. "Playoffs? I don't know anything about playoffs."

Might be time to start brushing up, coach.

With three games left, the never-do-it-the-easy way Browns (8-5), who had to survive three onside kicks in the final three minutes before holding off the New York Jets 24-18 on Sunday, control their playoff destiny.

Hang on. Playoff destiny? The Browns? C'mon.

No kidding. As the snow starts falling, it's beginning to look a lot like the playoffs in Cleveland.

And Crennel, who began this season with his job in serious jeopardy, is having a hard time grasping the concept.

"We play the Buffalo Bills on Sunday and we have to improve in order to be ready for Buffalo," Crennel said, again stiff-arming the playoff talk. "That's our focus. That's been the focus all year, to try and get ready for the next game."

"We're not the New England Patriots. We know that we can improve and we have been working every week trying to improve. Sometimes, that improvement is more evident than other times. If we keep working, then we give ourselves the best chance. That's what we're going to do."

Crennel's coolness on the subject aside, there's a very real possibility the Browns could be ticketed for the postseason by this time next week. Cleveland, which currently holds a one-game lead for the AFC's second wild-card berth, can lock up a playoff spot with a win over the Bills (7-6) combined with a loss by Tennessee (7-6) at Kansas City and a loss or tie by Denver (6-7), which visits Houston on Thursday.

With their final two games against disappointing Cincinnati (5-8) and disastrous San Francisco (3-10), it's conceivable the Browns could run the table, finish 11-5, and not need to rely on others to get them in.

That's presumptuous, and if this whacked-out season has taught us anything, it's that nothing can be assumed.

Still, the Browns are showing signs of being playoff-worthy.

Coming off a self-inflicted loss at Arizona one week earlier, they showed patience in building a 17-6 lead over the Jets and then withstanding a frantic comeback for their third road win.

While their opponent may have been weak, and the Browns couldn't relax until Joe Jurevicius recovered a slippery kick with 27 seconds left, the stomach-churning final minutes had the make-up of a big game.

"We're in the playoffs right now," running back Jamal Lewis said, referring to the raised intensity and meaning of late-season games. "Three games left ... we're trying to win all of 'em."

For that to happen, Cleveland will need much more from its defense, which has allowed a league-high 356 points and began to crack in the cold, closing minutes at the rain-soaked Meadowlands.

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VICK

From Page 5

"This is a difficult day for Michael's family and for a lot of us, including many of our players and fans who have been emotionally invested in Michael over the years," Blank said. "We sincerely hope that Michael will use this time to continue to focus his efforts on making positive changes in his life, and we wish him well in that regard."

One of Vick's attorneys, Lawrence Woodward, asked for leniency. He said Vick "grew up on some of probably the meanest and roughest streets in this commonwealth," but had never been in trouble with the law and had done much for charities.

Vick was denied any credit for taking responsibility for his crime. Hudson agreed with a federal probation officer's finding that Vick had lied about his hands-on killing of dogs and about his drug use. Vick tested positive for marijuana Sept. 13, violating conditions of his release while he awaited sentencing.

Hudson recalled that Vick at one point said he only handed over two dogs to co-defendant Quanis Phillips, who killed them. On another occasion, Vick said he dropped a dog after Phillips tied a rope around the animal's neck, the judge added.

"I'm not convinced you've fully accepted responsibility," Hudson

told Vick.

Federal sentencing guidelines called for a term of 18 months to two years. Federal prosecutor Michael Gill asked for a sentence at the high end, meaning Vick would get more time than either of the two co-defendants sentenced last month.

"He did more than fund it," Gill said, referring to the "Bad Newz Kennels" dogfighting operation. "He was in this thing up to his neck with the other defendants."

Outside court, Woodward said Vick didn't want anyone feeling sorry for him.

"He just wants a chance to prove himself when all this is over," he said. "But the other thing he said to me, which I also think is important for everyone to know, is that he understood that some of the things he was doing in life and off the field were dangerous, and he told me he feels lucky that he's alive and not hurt and now it's all about the future."

U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg sounded a similar theme.

"This was an efficient, professional, and thorough investigation that well exposed a seamy side of our society," he said in a statement. "I trust Mr. Vick learned important lessons and that his admission of guilt will speed his rehabilitation."

Vick pleaded guilty in August, admitting he bankrolled the dogfighting operation and helped kill six to eight dogs.

BENGALS

From Page 5

playoff contention. They need to win their last three games against San Francisco, Cleveland and Miami to finish 8-8 for the fourth time in coach Marvin Lewis' five seasons.

Palmer's breakout season came in 2005, when he led the Bengals to their first winning record and playoff appearance since 1990. He completed 68 percent of his passes, threw 32 touchdowns and 12 interceptions, and finished with a passer rating of 101.1.

He tore up his left knee during the playoff loss to Pittsburgh, and was still recovering from the injury last season, the reason his numbers slipped slightly. He completed 62 percent with 28

touchdowns and 13 interceptions, finishing with a passer rating of 93.9 — still well above average.

The decline has continued this season. Palmer has completed 65 percent of his passes with 21 touchdowns and 17 interceptions, one shy of his career high. His passer rating is 85.5.

Coach Marvin Lewis thinks it's unfair to judge him on those numbers. The Bengals put a lot of responsibility on Palmer to run their no-huddle offense.

"You have to consider the whole body of work, and he has tremendous ability to manage the football game," Lewis said yesterday. "He does a good job of handling the things that are put on his shoulders and the different, unconventional things he sees week-in and week-out."

"If you look at what he man-

ages and how he does it, there are a lot of good plays."

A lot of things have been outside his control.

The offensive line was in flux for the first half of the season because of injuries. Running back Rudi Johnson has been limited by a hamstring injury for most of the season. Receiver Chris Henry was suspended by the NFL for the first half of the season.

All those things left the offense one-dimensional: Palmer throwing to Chad Johnson and T.J. Houshmandzadeh. Palmer is on pace to set career highs for attempts and completions.

Plus, the last two games have been played in miserable conditions — the muck at Pittsburgh's Heinz Field and a steady rain Sunday in the victory over St. Louis.

BROWNS

From Page 5

The Jets picked up 175 offensive yards in the fourth quarter.

Crennel and his coaching staff have been frustrated by the unit's inconsistency all season.

"There have been stretches where we played really good defense, have made game winning stops and are able to get off the field efficiently," he said. "Then there have been other times that they throw the ball over our head or the runner can run for 30 yards."

"We work at it. We talk about it. We've looked at it and we've adjusted some techniques and things like that. But we haven't gotten to where we need to be yet."

The biggest challenge for Crennel has been identifying the problem because there's more than one.

"Sometimes it's gap control, sometimes it's run fits, sometimes it's pursuit angles — you just keep harping on those things," he said.

Crennel's one-game-at-a-time mantra has worked to this point. Cleveland's players have bought into the philosophy, but that didn't stop a few of them from sneaking a peek at the scoreboard for updates of Tennessee's overtime loss to San Diego on Sunday.

TOP 25

From Page 5

enough."

North Carolina (8-0), which beat Penn 106-71 in its only game last week, received 48 first-place votes and 1,772 points from the 72-member national media panel.

Memphis (7-0), which beat Southern California 62-58 in overtime last week, was No. 1 on 19 ballots and had 1,708

points.

Big 12 members Kansas (9-0) and Texas (9-0) each received two first-place votes in holding third and fourth, while Georgetown (7-0), which got the only other first-place vote, stayed fifth.

Duke was sixth, while Washington State and UCLA were seventh and eighth, exchanging places from last week. Michigan State and Marquette rounded out the top 10.

Pittsburgh moved up one spot to 11th and was followed by Tennessee, Indiana, Texas A&M, Clemson, Oregon, Xavier, Butler, Gonzaga and Vanderbilt.

The last five ranked teams were Arizona, Louisville, Villanova, Saint Mary's and BYU.

Southern Cal (6-3), which lost consecutive close games to Kansas and Memphis, dropped out from 24th after a two-week run in the poll.

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Argentina elects Fernandez as first female president

By Bill Cormier
The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES — Cristina Fernandez was sworn in yesterday as Argentina's first elected female president, completing a rare husband-wife transfer of power that the nation hopes will ensure continued recovery from an economic meltdown.

Fernandez, whose husband Nestor Kirchner is credited with leading Argentina out of its 2001-2002 economic meltdown, vowed to increase his center-left economic programs, create jobs and reduce high poverty levels.

During her hour-long inaugural speech, Fernandez's voice rose in anger as she demanded

faster progress from dozens of slow-moving court investigations of human rights abuses of the country's 1976-83 dictatorship.

"I expect that in the four years of my term, trials that have been delayed more than 30 years will be concluded. We must try and punish those who were responsible for the greatest genocide in modern Argentine history," Fernandez, 54, told a packed Congress after taking up the blue-and-white sash from Kirchner, who gingerly adjusted it on her shoulders.

Nearly 13,000 people are officially listed as missing or dead under a "dirty war" crackdown on dissent by past military governments. Activists estimate

nearly double that number died.

Fernandez, who has been compared to Hillary Clinton, embarks on a four-year term whose main challenge will be to prolong an economic recovery that has seen annual growth rates above 8 percent in recent years.

"I believe we have regained our balance," Fernandez said, recalling how her husband took office in May 2003 amid a debt default and a searing devaluation that was Argentina's worst economic crisis in history. "In four and a half years this president — together with all Argentines — was able to change the scenario we were facing."

She vowed to strengthen Argentina's oft-criticized justice system, overhaul a poorly funded system of public schools and tackle rampant crime and a looming energy crisis.

Several South American presidents looked on and thousands of supporters outside Congress waved blue-and-white Argentine flags.

Fernandez, a three-term senator who won office handily on a left-leaning ticket, captured 45 percent of the vote against a divided opposition Oct. 28. She joins Michelle Bachelet in Chile as the second sitting female president in South America.

Approval ratings for Kirchner topping 60 percent have been largely credited with Fernandez's



DANIEL LUNA | AP PHOTO

HELLO, GOODBYE: Argentina's new president Cristina Fernandez and her husband, departing president Nestor Kirchner, wave outside the Congress in Buenos Aires.

victory, although she was praised for an astute, unorthodox campaign. Refusing to debate any of her rivals and granting few interviews, Fernandez preferred

to be photographed overseas meeting world leaders — projecting a flair for diplomacy while masking a lack of executive branch experience.

U.S. avoids proposed emission reduction target

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

BALI — In a largely symbolic duel over numbers, the United States resisted efforts at the U.N. climate conference yesterday, to suggest that upcoming negotiations consider a specific range of targets for sharp cuts in greenhouse-gas emissions.

A proposed text for the Bali conference's final document notes, in a nonbinding way, a widely accepted view that reductions of 25 to 40 percent in richer nations' emissions would be required by 2020, and even deeper cuts later, to head off the worst of global warm-

ing. "It's important to give a clear signal that that's where industrialized countries intend to go," the U.N. climate chief, Yvo de Boer, told reporters.

The European Union, which pushed for this mention of potential targets, has itself committed to 20 to 30 percent reductions below 1990 levels by 2020. But the chief U.S. negotiator said that, because of "many uncertainties," raising such specific numbers would limit the scope of future talks.

"To start with a predetermined answer, we don't think is an appropriate thing to do," Harkan Watson told reporters.

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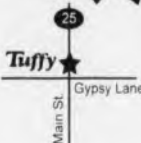
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